Glossary of Streaming Terms

broadcaster/transmitter: Software used to capture analog video and audio, then compress and stream it over the Internet in real time.

CODEC (compressor/decompressor or coder/decoder): Software used to compress information for efficient storage and transmission and later decompress the information for playback. The “sender” compresses the file and the “receiver” decompresses the file.

firewall: A software security mechanism typically used by companies to provide protection against unwanted Internet traffic.

Flash: An application and file format from Macromedia that produces vector-based graphics for animation files that are popular for interaction on the Internet.

FlashPix: A multiresolution still image file format created by Kodak, Hewlett-Packard, and LivePicture that is popular on the Internet.

GSM (Global System Mobile): A pan-European digital mobile communications standard. GSM digitizes and compresses data, then combines it with other data streams for transmission. It can also be used to broadcast live audio events over the MBone. QuickTime provides a decompressor for GSM audio on the MBone.

hinting: The process of adding a hint track to a QuickTime movie.

hint track: Information contained in a QuickTime movie to ensure that it streams properly.

HTTP (Hypertext Transport Protocol) streaming: A method of streaming files that allows the user to play the movie as the file is downloaded onto the hard disk.

IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force): The main standards organization for the Internet.

ISO (International Standards Organization): An organization that sets international standards.

MBone (multicast backbone): A virtual network that provides an efficient way of sending one copy of information to many sites around the Internet at the same time without consuming unnecessary bandwidth.

QuickTime™

MPEG (Moving Pictures Experts Group): An audio and video compression standard that is especially useful in the delivery of high-quality, low-bandwidth video used in TV and DVD.

MP3 (MPEG-1 Layer 3 Audio): A popular format for digital music files on the Internet.

multicast: Provides one-to-many and many-to-many network delivery services for applications such as video and audio streaming.

proxy: Software often used in conjunction with a company's firewall to prevent unauthorized data from leaving or entering the intranet (the company's internal network).

QDesign Music 2: A high-quality compressor and decompressor primarily used for streaming music on the Internet.

QuickTime Streaming Server: Apple software running on a server that streams QuickTime files.

reflector: Software required for live broadcasts on the Internet. Reflectors convert a multicast stream to a series of unicast streams.

RTP/RTSP (Real-Time Protocol/Real-Time Streaming Protocol): An efficient method of connecting servers and clients (RTP) and controlling the transmission of real-time data (RTSP) across the Internet. An important characteristic of RTP/RTSP is that the content is not stored on the user's hard disk. There are three basic methods of transmitting data over RTP/RTSP:

- Live streaming: Audio and video that is streamed as it occurs via a broadcaster that transcodes the video or audio to streaming format in real time.
- Rebroadcast: Similar to live streaming, except that the content is broadcast from a stored file. The content provider chooses when streaming begins and ends.
- Video on demand: Content played from a file stored on a server. The user controls the playback—in other words, the user can start the video at any time and choose where to begin viewing the video.

SMIL (Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language): This XML-based markup language allows developers to describe the layout of elements of multimedia (audio, video, images, text), then synchronize or schedule their delivery. This simplifies development of interactive multimedia for the Internet.

Sorenson Video 2: A high-quality compressor and decompressor primarily used for streaming video on the Internet.

unicast: A one-to-one protocol that provides communication between a single sender and a single receiver.

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